

March 20, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Chris Domangue
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Ray Mayet
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Eli Miles, Jr
Jake Giardina	Francis Richard
Donald Schwab	Lance Authement
Scott LeBlanc	

Absent: None

Also present: Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Judge Jimmy Gaidry; Dan Grandal, Stantec; Stevie Smith, Mitch Andras and Josef Hoffmann;, Royal Engineering; Cyndi Guion, FOBL; John Lafargue, FOBL Robert Mire; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Judge Jimmy Gaidry did the honor of swearing in new commissioner Scott LeBlanc to represent Assumption Parish. Chairman Hugh Caffery welcomed Scott LeBlanc, and stated that he looks forward to serving with him on the Board. Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked Judge Gaidry.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of February 20, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan to approve the accounts payable for February. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve the finance report for February. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that he sent the pumping summary out to the Board. He advised that we pumped more water in February than we have on record in the history of the district as far as we know. We have been pumping at full capacity for the entire month of February.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Robert Mire is retiring. He stated that he interviewed fifteen applicants of the thirty-five that applied for the position. He hopes to have the decision narrowed down at the end of this week or early next week.

Chairman Hugh Caffery presented a plaque to Judge Jimmy Gaidry for his tremendous service on the Board. Judge Gaidry stated that he benefited more serving on the Board than the commissioners benefited for his service. He advised that it was an honor serving with all the commissioners, and that it was a very pleasant educational process. He thanked the Board for the plaque.

Chairman Hugh Caffery presented a plaque to Mayor Ron Animashaun for his fourteen years of service on the Board. Chairman Caffery advised that his legacy goes back a lot further than his. He has a long term history on this Board, and he has always been a positive force to development. He has always been supportive of being proactive. Mayor Ron Animashaun thanked the Board for the plaque.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we are still in the process of closing invoices for a few of the projects. The amount to be reimbursed back to Lafourche Parish is still yet to be determined.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Dan Grandal with Stantec, Jason Kennedy with Delta Coast, Francis Richard, Mr. Jake Giardina and he took a trip to the Entergy nuclear facility in Taft. There were definitely lessons learned from them in that their situation is similar to ours in that they are just downstream of a major bend. The major difference is that in Donaldsonville there is a little more bature than at this facility. There is a lot of debris that they have to manage and work around.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they have it narrowed down to two scenarios for the pump station which is the intake channel. and the other is piping out into the river. He advised that in the next several weeks Dan and his group will begin some stability analysis on both scenarios.

Mr. Mitch Andras, Royal Engineering, reported that the first few tasks they performed on the weir removal project are surveys of all the municipal water intakes along the bayou that might be affected by removing the weir. They also verified the existing hydraulic model using gauge information, and also it was important to verify the model giving the dredging activities that has happened. The hydraulic model assessment was performed using 200cfs and taking into account the low tide, and peak daily municipal and industrial withdrawals. They will compare the weir in versus the weir out. They will also look at the Napoleonville to Donaldsonville dredged versus not dredged.

Mr. Andras showed pictures of the gauge locations. They compared water surface elevations from July 2016. They want to make sure they will not be drying up at any location. They want to make sure all the intakes will remain operable with the weir out. Mr. Andras explained the three different scenarios with the weir out.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if they know how much the factories will be pumping during this period, and Mr. Andras answered they assumed peak flows from those factories.

Mr. Malbrough advised that what this analysis shows is that barring a spill or complete shutdown of the facility, we are still in good shape as far as water supply.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they have identified potential disposal locations and access for the permitting of Phase 3. It has been compiled into a report to be submitted to the Corps in the next couple of weeks for a jurisdictional determination.

Commissioner Donald Schwab read the millage resolution for Terrebonne Parish for the rate of 2.06 mills. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any comments on the millage resolution, and there were none.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a vote on the millage resolution for Terrebonne parish for the rate of 2.06 mills, and the vote was all yeas, no nays, none abstained, and none absent. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Francis Richard read the millage resolution for the parishes of Lafourche, Assumption, and Ascension for the rate of 2.03 mills. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any comments on the millage resolution, and there were none.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a vote on the millage resolution for Lafourche, Assumption, and Ascension parishes for the rate of 2.03 mills, and the vote was all yeas, no nays, none abstained, and none absent. Motion carried unanimously.

Cyndi Guion, Friends of Bayou Lafourche, advised that they have been working on strategic planning, working on getting the website pulled together, and working on the summit. She advised that Ben and she has worked on the power point for Chris Domangue, who will be giving a report to the Houma republican women club. She advised that John and she have worked on a corporate solicitation letter, and putting together a list of people to approach. She advised that they are still waiting on a response from the IRS for tax exempt status.

Ms. Guion advised that she attended the UP Railroad ribbon cutting ceremony in Donaldsonville. She also reported that the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup was on March 11th, and advised that she helped pick up trash. She reported that the Lafourche Live Oak Tour had a kickoff on March 7th for the unveiling of the signs. She advised that Mr. Jake Giardina's oak tree is part of the Live Oak Tour. Mr. Jake Giardina gave the Fresh Water District a little bit of press regarding Bayou Lafourche.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, advised that they had 970 people sign up for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup. She stated that it was a fabulous event. The dumpster weights have come in, and they are compiling all the data. She advised that Henry and Hattie Templet were great team captains. She reported that the Bayou Lafourche paddle trip starts this Thursday.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:20 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to remove the damaged pile dolphins in the river for \$55,000.00.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

